

Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the surrounding environment. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a sweater or robe, which is visible at the bottom right. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

25. Thanksgiving

Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Meaning: Normally we pray for things such as our needs, emergencies, lack of funds, bad health, or a change of circumstances. God says to pray about everything, but to do it with thanksgiving. We should be thankful for the mountains and the valleys, the good and the bad, the light and the darkness, and for judgment, as well as for grace. Having a thankful spirit is most difficult when circumstances are undesirable. David is one of the greatest Bible examples of being thankful in adversity!

Application: Thanksgiving is the act of rendering thanks or expressing gratitude for favors or mercies. If all we received from God was salvation, we have more to be thankful for than we will ever deserve. Ingratitude is the failure to acknowledge a kindness. God's mercies are new every morning. Never a day should go by that we do not say "thank you" to God for all of His love, compassion, care, miracles, and workings in our lives.

Other Verses to Study: Psalm 50:14; 95:2; 100:4; 116:17; 147:7;
I Corinthians 15:57; II Corinthians 9:11; Colossians 4:2; I Timothy 2:1;
Revelation 7:12

1. When is being thankful most difficult?

2. What is ingratitude? _____

3. When was the last time you told God "thank you", and for what was it? _____

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves."